

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 SSM-03 CU-04 /088 W
-----068036 061705Z /43

O 061636Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2485
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 20353

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP EG LY AG IZ SY UR XF
SUBJECT: SADAT EXPOUNDS ON BREAKING RELATIONS AND HINTS
- AT FURTHER ACTION AGAINST USSR

REF: CAIRO 20321

1. IN MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN RUPPE AND AMBASSADOR
DEC 6, PRESIDENT SADAT SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE SETTLEMENT
WITH ISRAEL WOULD BE MADE ANY MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF
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BREAKING RELATIONS WITH SYRIA. HE REFERRED TO SYRIAN
ATTACKS AFTER SINAI II AS SIMILAR "THEATRICALS." HE CON-
FIRMED THAT DECISION TO BREAK RELATIONS WAS MADE AFTER
LEARNING THAT TRIPOLI CONFERENCE HAD DECIDED TO "FREEZE"
RELATIONS WITH EGYPT. HE HAD NO FEARS OF FREEZING OF
RELATIONS AND CALLED IT "PURE INSTIGATION BY SOVIET UNION."
TRIPOLI GROUP CALLED "BLOCK OF AGENTS" FOR USSR.

2. SADAT SAID THAT HE WILL TOMORROW TAKE ACTION AGAINST SOVIETS TO PUNISH THEM. HE WOULD NOT SPECIFY NATURE OF ACTION AGAINST SOVIETS, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SINCE HEARD THAT WHATEVER IT IS, IT WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

3. LATER IN CONVERSATION, SADAT SAID THAT ASAD WAS SHOCKED LAST NIGHT WHEN RELATIONS WERE BROKEN. ASAD TOLD NEWSMEN IN TRIPOLI HE DID NOT WANT TO BREAK RELATIONS. "I AM SURE HE WAS SHOCKED LAST NIGHT. I AIMED AT THAT. EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW HIS SIZE. THEY ATTACKED ME FOR A YEAR AND A HALF AFTER SINAI II AND THEN ASKED ME TO FORGIVE THEM. IT'S ALWAYS THIS WAY. THE SYRIANS HAVE A COMPLEX OF IMPOTENCE BUT I DON'T HAVE IT. LET US JUST HOPE THAT ISRAEL UNDERSTANDS."

4. COMMENT: SADAT'S FIRST PRIVATE STATEMENTS TO US ON BREAKING RELATIONS CONFIRM COMMENT CONTAINED REFTTEL, ALTHOUGH HE APPEARS TO PLACE EVEN GREATER BLAME THAN WE SUSPECTED ON SOVIETS FOR TRIPOLI MEETING. AS RESULT, HE SEEMS DETERMINED TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION AGAINST THEM IN NEAR FUTURE. ONE RELIABLE REPORT SUGGESTS THAT SHORT OF BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HE MAY DECIDE TO CLOSE DOWN SOVIET AND OTHER COMMUNIST CULTURAL CENTERS.

5. EMBASSIES OF THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH EGYPT BROKE
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RELATIONS HAVE BEEN SURROUNDED BY ARMED RIOT POLICE SINCE LAST NIGHT, PRESUMABLY TO PROTECT DEPARTING DIPLOMATS FROM EGYPTIANS' IRE. EILTS

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